

The Abysmal Brute

By JACK LONDON

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SYNOPSIS

Sam Stubener, manager of boxers, hears about a wonderful unknown boxer called Young Pat Glendon. He finds the boy in the wilderness.

Glendon, innocent of the world's ways, goes to San Francisco and is matched with "Roughhouse Kelly."

[Continued from last week.]

Once in a clinch the fight manager heeled his glove on young Pat's mouth, and there was just a hint of viciousness in the manner of doing it. A moment later, in the next clinch, Sam received the heel of the other's glove on his own mouth.

There was nothing snappy about it, but the pressure, stolidly lazy as it was, put his head back till the joints cracked, and for the moment he thought his neck was broken. He slacked his body and dropped his arms in token that the bout was over, felt the instant release and staggered clear.

"He'll—he'll do!" he gasped, looking the admiration he lacked the breath to utter.

CHAPTER III.

OLD Pat's eyes were brightly moist with pride and triumph. "An' what will you be thinkin' to happen when some of the gay an' ugly ones tries to rough it on him?" he asked.

"He'll kill them sure," was Stubener's verdict. "No, he's too cool for that. But he'll just hurt them some for their dirtiness."

"Let's draw up the contract," said the manager.

"Wait till you know the whole worth of him," old Pat answered. "Tis strong terms I'll be makin' you come to. Go for a deer hunt with the boy over the hills an' learn the lungs and the legs of him. Then we'll sign up ironclad and regular."

Stubener was gone two days on that hunt, and he learned all and more than old Pat had promised and came back a very weary and very humble man.

The young fellow's innocence of the world had been startling to the case hardened manager, but he had found him nobody's fool.

Virgin though his mind was, untouched by all save a narrow moun-



Old Pat's Celtic Wrath Flared Up.

tain experience, nevertheless he had proved possession of a natural keenness and shrewdness far beyond the average.

In a way he was a mystery to Sam, who could not understand his terrible equanimity of temper. Nothing ruffled him or worried him, and his patience was of an enduring primitiveness.

He never swore, not even the futile and emasculated cuss words of sissy boys.

"I'd swear all right if I wanted to," he had explained when challenged by his companion. "But I guess I've never come to needing it. When I do I'll swear, I suppose."

Old Pat, resolutely adhering to his decision, said goodby to the cabin.

"It won't be long, Pat, boy, when I'll be readin' about you in the papers. I'd like to go along, but I'm afraid it's me for the mountains till the end."

And then, drawing the manager aside, the old man turned loose on him almost savagely.

"Remember what I've ben tellin' ye over an' over. The boy's clean, an' he's honest. He knows nothing of the rottenness of the game. I kept it all away from him, I tell you. He don't know the meanin' of fake. He knows only the bravest an' romance an' glory of fightin', an' I've filled him up

with tales of the old ring heroes, though little enough. God knows, it's set him afire.

"Man, man, I'm tellin' you that I clipped the fight columns from the newspapers to keep it 'way from him—him a-thinkin' I was wantin' them for me scrapbook. He don't know a man ever lay down or threw a fight. So don't you get him in anything that ain't straight. Don't turn the boy's stomach."

"That's why I put in the null an' void clause. The first rottenness an' the contract's broke of itself; no snide division of stake money; no secret arrangements with the movin' pitcher men for guaranteed distance. There's slathers o' money for the both of you. But play it square or you lose. Understand?"

"And whatever you'll be doin' watch out for the women," was old Pat's parting admonishment, young Pat astride his horse and reining in dutifully to hear "Women is death an' damnation, remember that. But when you do find the one, the only one, hang on to her. She'll be worth more than glory an' money. But first be sure, an' when you're sure don't let her slip through your fingers."

"Grab her with the two hands of you and hang on. Hang on if all the world goes to smash an' smitherens. Pat, boy, a good woman is—a good woman 'Tis the first word and the last."

Once in San Francisco, Sam Stubener's troubles began. Not that young Pat had a nasty temper or was grouchy as his father had feared. On the contrary, he was phenomenally sweet and mild.

But he was homesick for his beloved mountains; also he was secretly appalled by the city, though he trod its roaring streets imperturbable as a red Indian.

"I came down here to fight," he announced at the end of the first week. "Where's Jim Hanford?"

Stubener whistled. "A big champion like him wouldn't look at you," was his answer. "Go and get a reputation. Is what he'd say."

"I can lick him."

"But the public doesn't know that. If you licked him you'd be champion of the world, and no champion ever became so with his first fight."

"I can."

"But the public doesn't know it, Pat. It wouldn't come to see you fight. And it's the crowd that brings the money and the big purse—that's why Jim Hanford wouldn't consider you for a second. There'd be nothing in it for him."

"Besides, he's getting \$3,000 a week right now in vaudeville, with a contract for twenty-five weeks. Do you think he'd chuck that for to go with a man no one ever heard of? You've got to do something first—make a record. You've got to begin on the little local dubs that nobody ever heard of—guys like Chub Collins, Roughhouse Kelly and the Flying Dutchman."

"When you've put them away, you're only started on the first round of the ladder. But after that you'll go up like a balloon."

"I'll meet those three named in the same ring one after the other," was Pat's decision. "Make the arrangements accordingly."

Stubener laughed. "What's wrong? Don't you think I can put them away?"

"I know you can," Stubener assured him. "But it can't be arranged that way. You've got to take them one at a time. Besides, remember, I know the game and I'm managing you. This proposition has to be worked up, and I'm the boy that knows how. If we're



"I'll meet those three named in the same ring one after the other."

lucky you may get to the top in a couple of years and be the champion with a mint of money."

Pat sighed at the prospect, then brightened up.

"And after that I can retire and go back home to the old man," he said.

Stubener was about to reply, but checked himself. Strange as was this championship material, he felt confident that when the top was reached it would prove very similar to that of all the others who had gone before.

Besides, two years was a long way off, and there was much to be done in the meantime.

When Pat fell to moping around his quarters, reading endless poetry books and novels drawn from the public library, Stubener sent him off to live on a Contra Costa ranch across the

(Continued on page 7 Col. 1.)

To Remove Mildew. Mildew is best removed by dipping the goods into a weak solution of chloride of lime, then placing the garment in the sun for a few minutes, after which rinse thoroughly. A heaping teaspoonful of lime to a quart of water is about the right proportion.

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Buried, but Not Lost. It is a good thing to bury the hatchet, but the trouble with this practice is that somebody always puts a marker at the place to show where the implement is.—Chester Times.

Cementing Glass and Metal. For cementing glass or glass and metal, as for motor car lamps, a cement not affected by oils is made from: Lead three parts, tin two, bismuth 2.5. This melts at 212 Fahrenheit.

Fish Unhurt by Freezing. During several months of each year some of the great rivers of Siberia are frozen solid to the bottom, but the fishes imprisoned in the ice maintain their vitality and resume their active life when the ice melts.

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